



## *What to Say When a Child's Pet Has Died*

*When a pet dies, many parents worry about saying the wrong thing.*

*The good news is that children do not need perfect words.*

*They need simple, honest, loving ones.*

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### *Gentle things you can say:*

*"I know you loved them very much."*

*"I'm sad too."*

*"Their body stopped working, and they died."*

*"It's okay to cry, ask questions, or feel quiet."*

*"We can remember them together."*

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### *Try to avoid saying:*

*"It was just a pet."*

*"Don't be sad."*

*"They went to sleep."*

*"We can get another one."*

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### *What matters most*

*Your child needs truth, comfort, and permission to grieve in their own way. You do not have to say everything perfectly. You just need to stay present.*

*Gentle reminder: Love does not end when a life does.*

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